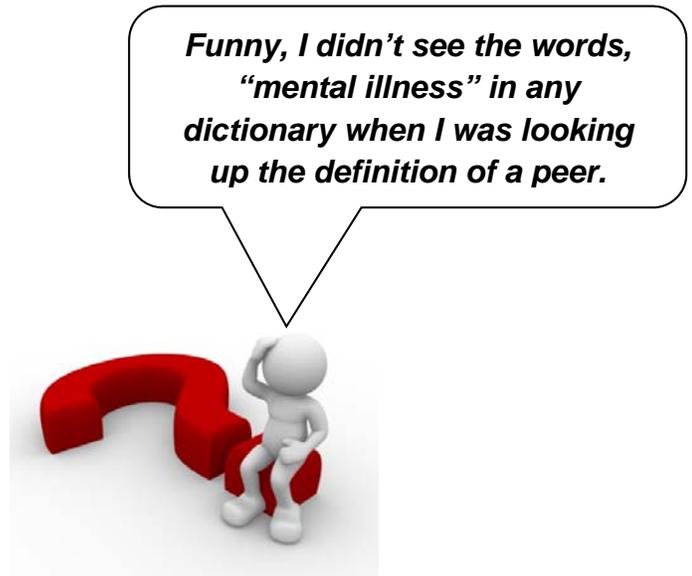


Advanced Peer Specialist Training Spring 2015

Peer - (Noun) A person who is the equal of another in abilities, qualifications, age, background, or social status. Something of equal worth or quality. An equal in age, skill or another category

Peer (Verb): To look at very carefully, curiously, searchingly (especially if it is something difficult to see) until it comes into view.



The Advanced Peer Specialist Training (APST) Spring 2015 is a 4-day commitment with the purpose of enhancing the skills of those who possess an Introductory Peer Certification and have been utilizing their skills as a paid or volunteer peer specialist for at least one (1) year. The APST consists of 4 days of training starting at 8AM and ending at 5PM. It has been tentatively scheduled on Fridays, April 10th, 17th, 24th and May 1st, 2015 pending final approval by the L.A. County Board of Supervisors.

If you are interested in applying for peer training please visit the MHA Build Your Own Box – Peer Trainings at <http://buildyourownbox.squarespace.com/peer-trainings/> and complete the interest form for the specific training you are interested in. (i.e. submit contact information). Individuals that complete / submit an interest form automatically receive notification of the upcoming training and application process once the training is scheduled and/or confirmed.

It is very important that individuals interested in peer training have the skills / ability to access the MHA Build Your Own Box Peer Trainings web site, complete the interest form and update the interest form if their contact information changes on their own.

Participants of peer trainings must have the skills and ability to travel throughout L.A. County and will be responsible for arranging all travel arrangements to and from the various training site(s).

Participants of peer trainings are required to participate throughout the duration of the course by attending each training day, completing classroom / homework / field assignments and by proactively engaging in group discussion and interactive exercises.



It is extremely important that individuals interested in participating in peer trainings;

- Have their own e-mail address and telephone number
- Have ongoing access to a computer with internet capabilities and Word / Adobe software.
- Can access the MHA Build Your Own Box – Peer Trainings web site, complete the interest form and update the interest form if their contact information changes on their own.

This indicates the individual possesses computer skills and the ability to engage in self-directed activity. These are skills and abilities essential for completing the application, participating in the Advanced Peer Specialist Training and ultimately obtaining / maintain employment.

Enthusiastic, well-meaning staff and supporters of individuals interested in peer training have exhibited a tendency to, “do for” (i.e. completing the interest form and/or application “for” individuals interested in peer training). This actually creates challenges for individuals successfully completing the course. Consistent with efforts to empower people, one goal of peer training is to teach individuals to fish, not simply give them the fish. Enthusiastic, well-meaning staff and supporters of individuals interested in peer training may consider working with individuals to identify and develop the skills and abilities necessary to be self-directed participants of peer trainings as an effective alternative to, “doing for.”

Advanced Peer Specialist Training Spring 2015 Synopsis

DATES:

- Friday, April 10th, 2015 8 AM – 5 PM
- Friday, April 17th, 2015 8 AM – 5 PM
- Friday, April 24th, 2015 8 AM – 5 PM
- Friday, May 1st, 2015 8 AM – 5 PM

LOCATION: Washington Blvd., Commerce, CA 90040 9th Floor Project Return Peer Support Network Training Room.

SYNOPSIS: The Advanced Peer Specialist Training 2015 (APST) is a 4-day time commitment with the purpose of enhancing the skills of those who possess a Peer Specialist Certificate and have been utilizing their skills as a paid or volunteer peer specialist/advocate/supporter for at least one (1) year. The APST consists of 4 days of training starting at 8AM and ending at 5PM. It has been tentatively scheduled on Fridays, April 10th, 17th, 24th and May 1st, 2015 pending final approval by the L.A. County Board of Supervisors. The trainings will include educational presentations from some of the most respected professionals in the field as well as interactive exercises and group activities to engage the participants in applying advanced skills.

Training will include topics of choice identified as most useful for enhancing professional development by increasing skills, ability and confidence as an employee by applicants completing the Advanced Peer Specialist Training Application.

Participants who successfully complete the entire program (attendance at each training session is mandatory) will receive a certificate during the final meeting. This certificate can serve participants as a resume enhancer, proof that the individual seeks to advance his/ her career and education and will facilitate current Peer Specialists in networking with others in the field. It is important to note that the Advanced Peer Specialist Training (APST) Spring 2015 is not a job placement agency nor does the APST Certificate guarantee employment at any agency.



TO APPLY FOR THE ADVANCED PEER SPECIALIST TRAINING 2015: Complete the following steps;

1. Complete the interest form for the Advanced Peer Specialist Training at the MHA Build Your Own Box – Peer Trainings at <http://buildyourownbox.squarespace.com/peer-trainings/> Individuals that complete / submit an interest form automatically receive notification of the upcoming training and application process.
2. You will receive an application for the Advanced Specialist Training (APST) as an attachment by e-mail. The application will be in a fillable PDF format. Complete the application by typing responses into the text fields. Handwritten applications will not be considered. Applicants must complete the entire application on their own and in their own words.
3. Obtain the following documents:
 - Your resume.
 - A statement from your supervisor on agency letterhead verifying that you have been employed / volunteering for at least one (1) year and the number of hours you work / volunteer each week.
 - A copy of your initial Peer Certification.
4. Scan/convert your resume, supervisor statement and peer certification into PDF files.
5. Completed Advanced Peer Specialist Training applications must be e-mailed to **BOTH** Georgie Sullivan gsullivan@mhala.org **AND** John Travers jtravers@mhala.org by 5:00 PM Friday, February 27th, 2015. Please remember to include your resume, supervisor statement of employment/volunteering document and peer certification as attachments in the e-mail.
Applications received by fax or postal mail delivery will not be considered.
6. Individuals providing a reference must complete the “Advanced Peer Specialist Training Reference Form.” Completed reference forms are to be submitted directly to the MHA Training and Workforce Development Department to the respective fax number or e-mail address provided on Advanced Peer Specialist Training Reference Form.
7. **Advanced Peer Specialist Training Applications and Advanced Peer Specialist Training Reference Forms must be received by 5:00 PM Friday, February 27th, 2015.**
8. Due to the highly competitive nature of the training selection process, incomplete applications will not be considered. After review of applications, individuals will be interviewed. Applicants will be notified of their acceptance into the Advanced Peer Specialist Training program during the week of March 30th, 2015 and April 3rd, 2015.

CONTACT INFORMATION: For any questions or concerns regarding the Advanced Peer Specialist Training Spring 2015 Program / Application, please contact Georgie Sullivan at (562) 285-1330 x 259 / gsullivan@mhala.org or John Travers at (562) 285-1330 x 244 / jtravers@mhala.org .